

# Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



## Taillight shiner

*Notropis maculatus*

Common name • Taillight shiner

Scientific name • *Notropis maculatus*

State status • Endangered

### Ecology

Currently, the taillight shiner is found in Missouri only in the southeastern corner of the state. It prefers low-gradient streams, sloughs, lakes, oxbows and swamps. It is a schooling species with a varied diet of small crustaceans, insects and algae. Taillight shiners complete their life cycle in one year. Their body length ranges from 1.9-2.7 inches in length. Spawning begins in April and extends into mid-June.

### Reasons for Decline

The taillight shiner is one of the rarest minnows in Missouri, with current populations being the remnants of a former widespread distribution. The decline of the species is largely a result of habitat loss due to the draining of wetlands for agricultural purposes. Non-point source pollution also may be a contributing factor to the decline of the taillight shiner.

### Specific Recommendations

Restoration of streams, sloughs, lakes and wetlands will be necessary to reestablish healthy, widespread populations of all fish, including the taillight shiner.

→ No work should be allowed below the high bank of the stream or high water mark of wetlands between April 1 and June 15.

→ Limit clearing of vegetation, including standing and downed timber, to that which is absolutely necessary for construction purposes.

→ Riparian areas located down slope of construction zones should be physically screened with sediment controls, such as silt fences or filter strips. Sediment controls should be monitored and maintained for the duration of the project.

→ Avoid stream crossings. If unavoidable, temporary crossings should be employed.

Temporary crossings should not restrict or interrupt natural stream flow. If temporary in-channel fill is necessary, culverts of sufficient size should be employed to avoid water impoundment and allow for fish passage.

→ Sheet piling for coffer dams for the construction of bridge piers may be placed after June 15 but should be removed prior to April 1 of the following year. Removal of coffer dams should be coordinated with appropriate Missouri Department of Conservation personnel.  
→ Draining or reducing known wetland habitat should be avoided within the range of this species.

### General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers and Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Wetlands.

### Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in springs, streams or wetlands, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation  
Policy Coordination Section  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Field Office  
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573/876-1911

## Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.